

Message Text

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20

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SY-05 OPR-02 PER-01 SCS-03 /086 W

----- 082794

R 290845Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1025

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USCINCEUR

COMIDEASTFOR

DIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 0270

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, SU

SUBJ: MORE ARRESTS, TRIALS AND CHALLENGES TO REGIME

1. WE HAVE RELIABLE REPORT THAT TWENTY-SIX ACTIVE OR RETIRED OFFICERS AND NCOS WERE ARRESTED TOGETHER JAN 19 ON CHARGES THEY CONSPIRING TO BLOCK EXPECTED EXECUTION OF LEADERS OF SEPT 5 COUP ATTEMPT. (EXECUTIONS TOOK PLACE JAN 23 AS REPORTED KHARTOUM 213-230925Z JAN 76 AND 216-231109Z JAN 76.)

2. LEADER OF GROUP (AND ONLY NAME THAT HAS SURFACED) IS RETIRED GENERAL SAAD BAHAR, COMMANDING OFFICER OF ARMORED CORPS PDIOR TO PRO-COMMUNIST COUP OF JULY 1971. BAHAR WAS ONLY OFFICER TO ESCAPE OUT OF TWENTY-FOUR DETAINED AT THAT TIME BY COUP LEADERS. (OTHERS WERE KILLED BEFORE COUP OVERTURNED.) BAHAR WAS ARRESTED IN MAY 1974 ON SUSPICION OF COMPLICITY IN COUP PLANNING BY COL MOHAMMED NUR SAAD (WHO WAS FOUND GKNLTY AND IS STILL IN PRISION) BUT WAS RELEASED UNCONVICTED

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SIX MONTHS LATER.

3. ON JANUARY 17, HIGH MILITARY COUNCIL BEGAIN TRAIL OF RETIRED COLONEL ANIS OMER ALI AND TWENTY-FOUR OTHERS (INCLUDING THIRTEEN CIVILIANS) ARRESTED LAST NOVEMBER ON CHARGES OF COUP PLOTTING (75 KHARTOUM 2681 - 171109Z NOV 75).

4. WITH KHARTOUM UNIVERSITY SCHEDULED RE-OPEN ON JAN 31 FOR FIRST TIME SINCE SEPT 5, SUDANESE TROOPS WILL REPORTEDLY PATROL CAMPUS IN NUMBERS FOR INDEFINITE PERIOD.

5. COMMENT. NEW ARRESTS SYMPTOMATIC OF TURMOIL AND APPARENTLY UNCERTAIN LOYALTIES WITHIN ARMED FORCES SINCE SEPT 5 COUP ATTEMPT. IT ALSO CLEAR THAT SUDANESE SECURITY APPARATUS IN HIGH STATE OF ALERT. WIDELY HELD IMPRESSION IN TOWN IS THAT NIMEIRI REGIME IS UNDER THE GUN AND INCREASINGLY DEPENDENT ON NARROWING BASE OF SUPPORT. BREWER

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